

Saint Joseph's Parish
 PO Box 623
 1318 Ave G West
 Wisner, NE 68791
 Parish Office: 529-3891
 www.stjosephwisner.org
 Reconciliation: Saturdays before Mass
 4:15-4:40 pm or by appointment

The Epiphany of the Lord
January 8th, 2023

Administrator: Rev. Vincent Sunguti
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Holy Cross Parish
 PO Box 212
 517 N Fraiser
 Beemer, NE 68716
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The Epiphany of the Lord



Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. "The Lord and ruler is coming; kingship is his, and government and power."

Epiphany means manifestation. What the Church celebrates today is the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world; after being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem He is revealed to the Magi who have come from the East to adore Him. Christian tradition has ever seen in the Magi the first fruits of the Gentiles; they lead in their wake all the peoples of the earth, and thus the Epiphany is an affirmation of universal salvation.

This feast is celebrated either on January 6 or, according to the decision of the episcopal conference, on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8. The young Messiah is revealed as the light of the nations. There are three mysteries that are encompassed in this solemnity: the adoration of the Christ Child by the Magi, the Baptism of Christ and the wedding feast at Cana. Extra candles and/or lamps may be placed around the sanctuary and in other parts of the church to honor Christ revealed as the Light of the Gentiles. It is customary to replace the images of the shepherds at the crib with the three Magi and their gifts.

The First Reading is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah 60:1-6*. The prophet is trying to cheer the exiles by foretelling the glorious future of the new Jerusalem which is not yet rebuilt. The special radiance of God will illuminate it. Gentiles will bring their riches to it. From East and West peoples will flock to it. The Feast of the Epiphany is the feast which commemorates the manifestation of God to the Gentiles. This manifestation began when the Wise Men from the East came to Bethlehem to pay their respects and offer their gifts to the newly born king of the Jews. Though the words of Isaiah were not understood by his hearers as referring to this event, it was only in the coming of the Magi, to welcome Christ, that they were really fulfilled.

The Gospel of today's feast is from *Matthew 2:1-12*. The Magi are the central personages in today's feast of Epiphany. They were pagans who did not know the true God of the Jews. Yet that true God revealed to them that the King he had promised to the Jews had come. The expected Prince was born. They came to Jerusalem, the capital of Judah, expecting, of course, to find the city and the whole country rejoicing. Instead, they found suspicion and hatred in the reigning king—a hatred which in a few days turned to murder. Among the religious leaders they found knowledge of their past history, but utter indifference as regards the present and the future. These leaders knew the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem; they must have realized that the Magi were very sure of the truth revealed to them—they would not have come such a long journey on a "fool's errand." In spite of that, the thought of going to Bethlehem with the Magi never entered their minds. These were the leaders who some years later refused to listen to Christ and in spite of his miracles refused to admit his claim that he was not only the promised Messiah, but the true Son of God. These were men who rejected him because he had mercy on sinners and spoke of a future life. What they wanted from their Messiah was political power and earthly freedom and prosperity. Like Herod they ended

with murder—the crucifixion of the "King of the Jews." The pagan king was not much worse than the indifferent leaders of God's Chosen People. Let us resolve to make the Magi our models, to follow them to Bethlehem and offer Christ all that we have and are.

In Courtesy of Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.



From Fr. Vincent's Desk:
Goodbye Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

As you all know, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI died last Saturday, Dec. 31st and was buried on Thursday this week. According to the customs of the Church, all Catholic parishes all over the world are to dedicate one Mass to pray for the Soul of the Pope Emeritus. This is in addition to other private prayers that I encourage you to say for the departed pope's soul, his immediate family, and our church. It is also the custom of the Church that 9 days after the funeral of the Pope, are observed as official days of mourning in Rome and throughout the church. It is during this time that Masses and Novenas are said to remember the soul of the Pope.



For the case of our parishes, these Special Masses will be celebrated on this Sunday Jan. 8th at Holy Cross Church, Beemer at 8:30 am and St. Joseph, Wisner at 10:00 am. We will use red vestments color during the Mass of the dead since it the customary color to be worn while mourning the death of the successor of the Apostle Peter.

We are grateful indeed as a church for the sacrifice that Pope Benedict did in his entire life for the good of our Church. Although I never met the departed pope in person, I remember most of the Systematic Theology books that I used when I was doing my Theology in the Seminary were written by an author called Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger who would later become a pope. His books are still used today. His philosophical approach to Theology is so brilliant that no author has ever measured to his level. May God grant his Soul eternal peace.

The Saturday Mass at Wisner will be for the Feast of Epiphany.

Have a blessed 2023.

Saint Joseph Parish Council Members 2022-2023	
Ruth Bloedorn—Pres.	Trevor Cyboron— V.P.
Matt Albers	Holly Schroeder
Lindsey Burki— Sec.	Carmen Godbersen
Chris Ruskamp	Matt McGuire
For contact information, please see the parish directory	

Holy Cross Parish Council Members 2022-2023	
Mike Guenther—Pres.	Trisha Robertson—Sec.
Mike Gentrup	Karen Spenner
Robert Praest	Michelle Borgmann
For contact information, please see the parish directory	

